

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A decorative element comprising:

a film formed into a plurality of loops having an inner surface and an outer surface,

the film comprising:

a transparent polymeric layer;

a coating layer disposed on a first surface of the polymeric layer;

a plurality of embossed images disposed within the coating layer;

a high refractive index layer substantially covering the embossed images; and

a colorant layer disposed on a second surface of the polymeric layer or the

high refractive index layer, the colorant layer forming the inner surface of the loops.

2. The decorative element of claim 1 wherein the embossed images are micro-embossed.

3. The decorative element of claim 1 wherein the transparent polymeric layer is selected from the group consisting of polyester, biaxially-oriented polypropylene, and polyvinyl chloride.

4. The decorative element of claim 1 wherein in the colorant layer comprises an ink.

5. The decorative element of claim 4 wherein the ink is selected from the group consisting of a transparent ink, an opaque ink, and a metallic ink.

6. The decorative element of claim 1 wherein the high refractive index layer has a refractive index greater than 2.4 at a wavelength of approximately 10.6 μm .

7. The decorative element of claim 1 wherein the high refractive index layer comprises zinc sulfide.

8. A method of making a decorative element comprising the steps of:

providing a film having a transparent polymeric layer, a coating layer disposed on a first surface of the transparent layer, a plurality of embossed images within the coating layer, and a high refractive index layer substantially covering the embossed images;

applying a colorant to a second surface of the polymeric layer or the high refractive index layer; and

forming a plurality of loops of the film having an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface being the colorant layer of the film.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the applying step comprises applying an ink to the film.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the ink is selected from the group consisting of a transparent ink, an opaque ink, and a metallic ink.

11. A decorative bow of the type having a plurality of bow loops joined at a central point, the bow comprising:

a polymeric film comprising a clear polyester layer, a micro-embossed coating disposed on a first surface of the polyester layer, a high refractive index layer disposed on the micro-embossed coating, and a continuous, substantially uniform ink layer printed on the high refractive index layer or on a second surface of the polymeric layer;

wherein the bow loops are formed with the continuous ink layer disposed on an inside surface of the bow loops.

12. The bow of claim 11 wherein the high refractive index layer comprises zinc sulfide.

13. A decorative element having at least one length of ribbon curled into loops, the decorative element comprising:

a polymeric film comprising a clear polyester layer, a micro-embossed coating disposed on a first surface of the polyester layer, a high refractive index layer disposed on the

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micro-embossed coating, and a continuous, substantially uniform ink layer printed on the high refractive index layer or a second surface of the polymeric layer;

wherein the loops are formed with the continuous ink layer disposed on an inside surface of the loops.

14. The decorative element of claim 13 wherein the high refractive index layer comprises zinc sulfide.

15. The decorative element of claim 13 comprising a plurality of lengths of curled ribbon radiating from a common point.